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VIETNAMESE AFFAIRS STAFF
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

DATE: 11 June 1970

TO: The Director

FROM:

SUBJECT:

REMARKS:

Did you see the attached? If not, I think you will find it of some interest. I doubt if Kissinger would appreciate being referred to as the protege and "professional godson" of Fritz Kramer.

STAT

George A. Carver, Jr.
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachment

GAC:TAW

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PHILADELPHIA BULLETIN
5 JUN 1970

Fiora Lewis

Man behind Kissinger

Washington — Whenever President Nixon faces a major national security decision, front pages everywhere discuss the role of his chief foreign policy adviser, Dr. Henry Kissinger. Analysts probe in great detail into the rival influence of the Pentagon and the State Department on the options which Presidential aide Kissinger offers Mr. Nixon.

But nobody mentions the man who puts the options together for Dr. Kissinger. Even here in official Washington, few people have heard his name. Yet he is the single funnel for all the intelligence and information which reach the President and provide the basis for decision.

Recently promoted

His name is Al Haig, a colonel when he came to the White House but recently promoted to brigadier general well ahead of his West Point class. Haig is officially Kissinger's administrative aide, the man who organized Kissinger's staff and who keeps the work flowing smoothly.

In fact, he operates as Kissinger's deputy, taking charge whenever the chief adviser is away and, more important, screening everything which goes through and on to the President. Haig has been described as Kissinger's Sherman Adams, with the great and effective power of President Eisenhower's one-time aide except that, unlike Adams, he cannot actually suppress a Cabinet member's communication to the President.

But he can and does, decide the order in which papers shall go through, and whether, for example, a memo from the State Department should be held up until it can be forwarded with an answering memo from the Pentagon.

Edits summary

He is responsible for the daily intelligence summary [illegible] from State, CIA, Defense, Intelligence, and the National Security Administration. Mr. Nixon does read the ten to 12 pages reflecting what Haig considers important enough to highlight.

Haig also controls access of National Security Council staff members to their boss, Kissinger, and the flow of their reports. Although he has little formal power, his position as gate-keeper to the summit makes him one of the most important men in Washington.

He is a trim, taut man in his late 40's, tough and sharp, whose quick intelligence came to the attention of Robert McNamara when he was Secretary of Defense. Haig also is quietly handsome with urbane manners, hard eyes, and not a trace of doubt in his face. Associates consider him hawkish, the [illegible] exercises great agility in avoiding any visible expression of his own views.

Devoted to military

The one thing Gen. Haig makes no effort at hiding is his total devotion to his military career. He has said he considers his White House job an interruption in his real professional life, and that he wouldn't want to stay too long because it might set back his progression up the military ladder.

The last thing he would want to do is to offend the uniformed hierarchy. Success for him will eventually be measured by the reception he gets on his return to the hierarchy. He stays in close touch.

"If I were the President's chief adviser on security affairs, Haig is certainly not the man I'd choose to run an objective, well-balanced shop for me," said one insider.

Yet he evidently has Kissinger's, and the President's, confidence. Partly this is because he is bright, partly because he is [illegible]

protege of General Fritz Kramer, the man who is Kissinger's professional godfather.

Haig is subtle, and some in Washington think sinister because of his hidden power to give special weight to the military on decision requiring items. Nobody really knows just how he uses his position. Staff members are never "entirely sure if the message is getting through straight, in either direction."

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